

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patricia Preikschat et al.

Title: CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER AND METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING IT

Attorney

Docket No.: 31716US1

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
(Submitted With Initial Filing)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows prior to examination.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 5 of the specification, immediately below the title, please insert the following section and accompanying paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/171,558 filed on March 29, 1999, which is a § 371 of PCT Application Serial No. PCT/DE97/00800 filed April 18, 1997.

At the top of page 24 above claim 1, please delete "Claims" and insert the following starting from the left margin of the page:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

I hereby certify that this being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Post-Office to Addressee, Express Mailing Label No. EL653124184US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

John P. Murtaugh  
Name of Attorney for Applicant

7-13-01 John P. Murtaugh  
Date Signature of Attorney